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Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 1 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the outcome document "Reaffirming Our Unity in Diversity" of the Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment held in Managua, Nicaragua on 25 and 26 June 2006, should be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 113 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Maria **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment: "Reaffirming Our Unity in Diversity"

Managua, Nicaragua, 25-26 June 2007

1. We, the representatives of thirty-one Latin American and Caribbean States Members of the United Nations, gathered at Managua, Nicaragua, on 25 and 26 June 2007, participants in the Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, reaffirm our commitment to the need to improve the levels of efficiency and effectiveness of our Organization.

2. We welcome the initiative of the Government of Nicaragua to organize this regional consultation with the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has served as a collective forum for consideration of the important issue of the coherence of the system within the context of development. This meeting has also helped to increase the level of information about the consultation process under way on the coherence of the United Nations system.

3. We reaffirm that the fundamental characteristics of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and that operational activities are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development.

4. The consideration of the High-level Panel's recommendations must emphasize that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process.

5. We reaffirm that General Assembly resolution 59/250 provides the intergovernmentally agreed framework for policies directed towards operational activities for development of the United Nations and we reiterate that economic and social development must remain at the centre of United Nations deliberations and that the achievement of the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, must continue to be the overall framework for the activities of the Organization.

6. We are aware that globalization has created opportunities and challenges while also deepening and widening inequalities and the gap between rich and poor countries. We therefore consider the eradication of economic and social inequalities to be one of the fundamental objectives for the world today. We also emphasize the need to strengthen the global partnership for development.

7. We reaffirm that it is a priority to strengthen the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making and in standard setting within international trade and financial institutions, moving towards a more inclusive system which duly takes into account the specific needs of developing countries.

8. We underline the necessity for the intergovernmental consultations on the recommendations of the High-level Panel to be carried out through an open, transparent and inclusive process whereby artificial time limits are avoided and such recommendations are submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

9. We reaffirm the need to step up the political impetus in the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits. In this context, we support the forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which will be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2008.

10. We call for the development assistance programmes of the United Nations system to focus on supporting national and regional efforts, inter alia, to eradicate hunger, poverty and illiteracy, and also to promote health, equitable economic growth and sustainable development.

11. In the formulation of their national policies, our countries will continue to promote international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity.

12. We underline the need to mobilize additional resources, including from organizations of the United Nations system and donors, to enhance South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation.

13. We recognize the important contribution of women to development. Therefore, we support efforts to strengthen the work of the United Nations relating to the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, inter alia, its research, training and capacity-building activities concerned with gender issues.

14. Our countries will continue to participate actively and constructively in the consultation process under way on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence.

15. We hope that the reform of the Organization, including the analysis of the coherence of the system, will strengthen the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in coordinating United Nations social and economic activities.

16. The participants congratulate the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua on the excellent working conditions for this consultation and reiterate their appreciation to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its support, which has enabled our deliberations to be a success.

Managua, 26 June 2007.